

Our View
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A tip of the hat needs to go out to local emergency officials. Not only have they been right on the spot during recent high winds and storms, but they are ready at a moment's notice to answer the call.

What concerns us is, when they answer the call are we actually paying attention to them?
Tuesday is a prime example.

If you kept up with the news, a semi-tractor trailer hauling a road grader came through Milton and, in the process of going up Stewart Street, snagged the power lines at the corner of Stewart and Margaret Street.

The incident knocked out power for a while and then the lines became hot again.

Worse yet, one of those downed power lines trapped an unsuspecting motorist.

Officers with the Milton Police and Milton Fire departments were quickly on the scene and helped free the trapped motorist. They also took the precautions to block off the street.

Here is where we find the rub.

What does it take for the public to see a road is blocked?

On more than one occasion, we saw people trying to drive up Stewart Street despite a fireman or police officer waving their arms and pointing them in the correct direction to get around the downed lines.

A few would start to turn, then decide to drive around the police car and fire truck blocking the roadway.

After this, we started wondering just how busy some of us really are?

Could it be that we are not that busy, but have the attitude "I just don't care?"

A man or woman trying to support their is standing out in the street—risking their life while trying to make sure others remain safe, yet we choose to ignore them as if they weren't even there.

And as the situation gets under control, people still ignore them and drive around the road block further risking the lives of those who work for Gulf Power, the Florida Department of Transportation, and other groups trying to repair the damage and make the roadway safe again.

We realize how easy it can be to get distracted while driving, but those red and blue lights are there for a reason.

Another interesting fact was the people who were being directed around the situation would start around, but then wanted to cut back through to Stewart Street using the bank's parking lot.

It was humorous, but it's like we all are looking for the fastest way around anything. Are we in that big of a hurry?

By not paying attention to the official paid to serve and protect, drivers were risking their own lives and those of many others.

Was this a major event or instance?

No. Thank goodness, this was not a major emergency, but we doubt it would have been any different if the street had been blocked because of a bomb threat. People just love to think rules are made to apply to everyone other than themselves.

The fact that our emergency personnel are ready at a moment's notice to respond is a comforting thought. They deserve a little respect.

They're there in the most dangerous situations. They're there at night. They're there on holidays (as we enjoy time with our families) and they're there when they don't want to be. We return that service with nasty attitudes, refusal to follow their instructions and, sometimes, downright rude behavior.

We don't understand. Thanks to all emergency personnel...not just on this Tuesday scene, but at every location to which they respond.